

April 25, 2003

Re: MDR #: M2-03-0347-01  
IRO Certificate No.: 5055

In accordance with the requirement for TWCC to randomly assign cases to IROs, TWCC assigned your case to \_\_\_\_ for an independent review. \_\_\_\_ has performed an independent review of the medical records to determine medical necessity. In performing this review, \_\_\_\_ reviewed relevant medical records, any documents provided by the parties referenced above, and any documentation and written information submitted in support of the dispute.

The independent review was performed by a matched peer with the treating health care provider. Your case was reviewed by a physician who is Board Certified in Anesthesiology and Pain Management.

Clinical History:

This 47-year-old female claimant suffered an on-the-job injury on \_\_\_\_\_. She felt and heard a pop in her shoulder and had pain running down her arms. She was treated with physical therapy and some medications.

An MRI of the cervical spine showed some degenerative spondylosis from C-3 to C-7 with degenerative annular bulging changes. No frank herniation or foraminal encroachment was present. Her examination was essentially within normal limits, as was her EMG. An MRI of the right shoulder showed some peritendinitis, but was negative for rotator cuff tear.

Disputed Services:

Cervical epidural steroid injections.

Decision:

The reviewer agrees with the determination of the insurance carrier. The reviewer is of the opinion that cervical epidural steroid injections are not medically necessary in this case.

Rationale for Decision:

The patient's examination shows no evidence of a radiculopathy. She does have evidence of possible peritendinitis in the shoulder region. A rotator cuff tear is not the only reason this patient could be experiencing pain. On several examinations, muscle spasm, tenderness, and even a knot were noted. She could well have a myofascial pain syndrome based on trigger point activity. This could indeed produce pain radiating down the arm. Sufficient evidence was not found to suggest cervical radiculopathy in this patient that would necessitate cervical epidural steroid injections.

I am the Secretary and General Counsel of \_\_\_\_ and I certify that the reviewing physician in this case has certified to our organization that there are no known conflicts of interest

that exist between him and any of the treating physicians or other health care providers or any of the physicians or other health care providers who reviewed this care for determination prior to referral to the Independent Review Organization.

We are simultaneously forwarding copies of this report to the payor and the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission. This decision by \_\_\_\_ is deemed to be a Commission decision and order.

### **YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING**

Either party to this medical dispute may disagree with all or part of this decision and has a right to request a hearing.

**If disputing a spinal surgery prospective decision** a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings **within ten (10) days** of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5©).

**If disputing other prospective medical necessity** (preauthorization) decisions a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings **within twenty (20) days** of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin. Code 148.3).

This Decision is deemed received by you **five (5) days** after it was mailed (28 Tex. Admin. Code 102.4(h) or 102.5 (d)). A request for a hearing should be sent to:

Chief Clerk of Proceedings  
Texas Workers' Compensation Commission  
P.O. Box 40669  
Austin, TX 78704-0012

A copy of this decision should be attached to the request. The party appealing the decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute.

I hereby verify that a copy of this Independent Review Organization (IRO) Decision was sent to the carrier, the requestor and claimant via facsimile or U.S. Postal Service from the office of the IRO on April 25, 2003

Sincerely,